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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PRB
92-235
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February 19, 1993

Mr. Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 31, 1993

Dear Sirs:

As a radio control boat modeler, It has recently come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission {FCC} is considering an action that has the potential to destroy my hobby and that of thousands of other hobbyist nationwide like myself. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted the new rule will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for R\C model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability.

Our radio-control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio-control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making {NPRM} in PR Docket 92-235 replaces Part 90 of the rules with a new Part 88. Part 90 allows for safe use of R\C aircraft and surface models by keeping 10 Khz spacing between fixed commercial users and frequencies used by R\C enthusiasts. The new Part 88 will allow mobile users on frequencies within 2.5 Khz of frequencies available to us, eliminating safe use of at least 31 of the 50 channels on the 72 MHz band {for R\C aircraft} and 10 of the 30 frequencies on the 75 MHz band {for R\C cars and boats} now used by hobbyists. In fact, more channels will likely be affected.

When we operate our R\C models, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

I don't think it is wise of the FCC to seek to expand the operation conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of the radio-control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radio, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. It is a billion dollar industry that must be saved from these detrimental FCC actions. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to hundreds of thousands of people